

ON VERY NON-LINEAR SUBSETS OF CONTINUOUS FUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we continue the study initiated by Gurariy and Quarta in 2004 on the existence of linear spaces formed, up to the null vector, by continuous functions that attain the maximum only at one point. Inserting a topological flavor to the subject, we prove that results already known for functions defined on certain subsets of \mathbb{R} are actually true for functions on quite general topological spaces. In the line of the original results of Gurariy and Quarta, we prove that, depending on the desired dimension, such subspaces may exist or not.

INTRODUCTION

The problem of finding linear spaces formed, up to the origin, solely by real-valued continuous functions on certain subsets of \mathbb{R} that attain the maximum only at one point was successfully investigated by V.I. Gurariy and L. Quarta [3]. Given a topological space D , by $\widehat{C}(D)$ we denote the subset of the linear space $C(D)$ of all real-valued continuous functions on D composed by the functions that attain the maximum exactly once in D . The main results obtained by Gurariy and Quarta in this direction are the following:

- (A) $\widehat{C}[a, b]$ contains, up to the origin, a 2-dimensional linear subspace of $C[a, b]$.
- (B) $\widehat{C}(\mathbb{R})$ contains, up to the origin, a 2-dimensional linear subspace of $C(\mathbb{R})$.
- (C) There is no 2-dimensional linear subspace of $C[a, b]$ contained in $\widehat{C}[a, b] \cup \{0\}$.

In the words of Gurariy and Quarta (see, e.g., [3]): $\widehat{C}[a, b]$ and $\widehat{C}(\mathbb{R})$ are 2-lineable and $\widehat{C}[a, b]$ is very non-linear (we refer the interested reader to [1, 3] for an account on this recently coined concept of *lineability*).

The situation is interesting because, for example, although $\widehat{C}[a, b]$ is a dense G_δ subset of $C[a, b]$, it does not contain, up to the origin, a 2-dimensional subspace of $C[a, b]$. The proof, due to Gurariy (2004), of the fact that $\widehat{C}[a, b]$ is a dense G_δ set has never appeared, so we shall sketch it in the Appendix for the benefit of the reader (and as a tribute to V.I. Gurariy).

On the one hand, the results (A) and (B) above can be obtained in a fairly simple way. Indeed, for (A) just take $\sin \cdot$ and $\cos \cdot$ on $[0, 2\pi)$, whereas for (B) consider the two linearly independent functions $x(t), y(t)$ defined on \mathbb{R} as

$$x(t) := \mu(t) \cos(4 \arctan(|t|)) \quad \text{and} \quad y(t) := \mu(t) \sin(4 \arctan(|t|)),$$

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 15A03, 26A15.

Key words and phrases. lineability, continuous function, very non-linear set.

G. Botelho is supported by CNPq Grant 302177/2011-6 and Fapemig Grant PPM-00295-11; J.B. Seoane-Sepúlveda was supported by MTM2012-34341.

where μ is the real valued continuous function defined on \mathbb{R} by

$$\mu(t) = \begin{cases} e^t & \text{if } t \leq 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } t \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

Then, take the 2-dimensional vector space given by $V = \text{span}\{x(t), y(t)\}$. It can be seen, quite easily, that $V \subsetneq \widehat{C}(\mathbb{R}) \cup \{0\}$. On the other hand, result (C) above requires a series of highly technical lemmas (see [3])

The purpose of this paper is to obtain far-reaching generalizations of the aforementioned results of Gurariy and Quarta. The idea is to consider spaces of functions defined on domains much more general than the original ones $([a, b], \mathbb{R}, [a, b]$, respectively), for which the corresponding results hold true. Moreover, we investigate the existence of n -dimensional subspaces – instead of 2-dimensional subspaces – formed by functions that attain the maximum exactly once. The search for such general domains disclosed the topological nature of the problem. In this way, for each of the three results we ended up with general domains that replicate a topological property of the original domain. While Gurariy and Quarta [3] used typical analytic techniques, the manifested nature of the problem led us to apply topological techniques, for example the Borsuk-Ulam theorem.

This paper is arranged as follows. In Section 1 we extend (A) to spaces of functions defined on topological spaces D that can be continuously embedded onto some Euclidean sphere S^n . In Section 2 we extend (B) to spaces of functions defined on quite general topological spaces D that include \mathbb{R} . In the two former cases we prove that $\widehat{C}(D) \cup \{0\}$ contains an $(n+1)$ -dimensional subspace. In Section 3 we extend (B) to spaces of functions defined on compact subsets K of \mathbb{R}^m . In this case we prove that $\widehat{C}(K) \cup \{0\}$ does not contain an $(m+1)$ -dimensional subspace of $C(K)$ for every compact $K \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ but, on the other hand, there are compact sets $K \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ for which $\widehat{C}(K) \cup \{0\}$ contains an m -dimensional subspace of $C(K)$. In a final section we provide an example of a compact space K for which there is an infinite dimensional subspace of $C(K)$ formed by functions that attain the maximum only at one point.

1. CONTINUOUS FUNCTIONS ON PREIMAGES OF EUCLIDEAN SPHERES

In this section we show that in (A) the interval $[a, b]$ can be replaced by preimages D of Euclidean spheres. Moreover, the dimension of the resulting subspace of $C(D)$ contained in $\widehat{C}(D) \cup \{0\}$ equals the dimension of the sphere plus 1. By $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ we denote the usual inner product in the Euclidean spaces.

Theorem 1.1. *Let $n \geq 2$ be a positive integer and D be a topological space for which there is a continuous bijection from D to S^{n-1} . Then $\widehat{C}(D)$ contains, up to the origin, an n -dimensional linear subspace of $C(D)$.*

Proof. Let $\pi_i: S^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the projection on the component $i = 1, \dots, n$ and let $G: D \rightarrow S^{n-1}$ be a continuous bijection. We first note that the maps π_i , $1 \leq i \leq n$, are linearly independent. In fact, consider a linear combination $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \pi_i$. If $a_i \neq 0$ for some i , then $(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2)^{1/2} \neq 0$. Let $z = (a_1, \dots, a_n) / (\sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2)^{1/2} \in S^{n-1}$. Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \pi_i(z) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2}{(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2)^{1/2}} \neq 0.$$

Now we shall prove that each nontrivial linear combination of the functions π_i , $1 \leq i \leq n$, has only one point of maximum. Consider $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \pi_i$ with some $a_i \neq 0$. For an arbitrary $y \in S^{n-1}$,

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \pi_i(y) = \langle a, y \rangle,$$

where $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$. It is well known that the function $y \mapsto \langle a, y \rangle$ attains its maximum in $z \in S^{n-1}$ if, and only if,

$$(1.1) \quad z = \frac{(a_1, \dots, a_n)}{(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2)^{1/2}}.$$

Therefore the unique point of maximum of $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \pi_i: S^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is z as in (1.1).

Now, consider the compositions

$$\pi_i \circ G: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

for $i = 1, \dots, n$. It is easy to see that set $\{\pi_i \circ G: i = 1, \dots, n\}$ is linearly independent. Let $h = \sum_{i=1}^n b_i (\pi_i \circ G)$ be a nontrivial linear combination of the functions $\pi_i \circ G$. Since $\sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i$ attains its maximum at a unique point $x_0 \in S^{n-1}$, and G is a bijection, it follows that h attains its maximum at a unique point, namely, $G^{-1}(x_0)$. The linear subspace spanned by the functions $\pi_i \circ G, i = 1, \dots, n$, completes the proof. \square

2. GENERALIZING THE 2-LINEABILITY OF $\widehat{C}(\mathbb{R})$

In this section we show that the argument of the proof of Theorem 1.1 actually holds for more general domains; general enough to have \mathbb{R} as a particular instance. By $\|\cdot\|_2$ we mean the Euclidean norm on \mathbb{R}^n .

Theorem 2.1. *Let $n \geq 2$ be a positive integer and D be a topological space containing a closed set Y such that there are a continuous bijection $F: Y \rightarrow S^{n-1}$ and a continuous extension $G: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ of F such that $\|G(x)\|_2 < 1$ for every $x \notin Y$. Then $\widehat{C}(D)$ contains, up to the origin, an n -dimensional linear subspace of $C(D)$.*

Proof. The symbol π_i stands for the i -th projection on \mathbb{R}^n . Note that $S^{n-1} \subset G(D)$ and $G(D)$ is contained in the closed unit ball of \mathbb{R}^n . Let us see that any nontrivial linear combination

$$f := \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i: G(D) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

attains its maximum at a unique point $x_0 \in G(D)$ and that this point belongs to S^{n-1} . Indeed, restricting $\sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i$ to $S^{n-1} \subset G(D)$, the same argument of the previous section tells us that there is a unique $x_0 \in S^{n-1}$ such that

$$(2.1) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(x) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(x_0)$$

for every $x \in S^{n-1}$. So, for any $x \in S^{n-1}$, as $-x \in S^{n-1}$, we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(-x) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(x_0)$$

hence

$$(2.2) \quad -\sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(x) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(x_0).$$

From (2.1) and (2.2) we obtain

$$(2.3) \quad \left| \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(x) \right| \leq \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(x_0)$$

for every $x \in S^{n-1}$. Now we just need to show that if $y \in G(D) - S^{n-1}$, then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(y) < \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(x_0).$$

The case $y = 0$ is immediate. Let us suppose $y \neq 0$. Recalling that $\|y\| < 1$ and applying (2.3), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(y) &\leq \left| \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(y) \right| = \|y\| \cdot \left| \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i\left(\frac{y}{\|y\|}\right) \right| \\ &< \left| \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i\left(\frac{y}{\|y\|}\right) \right| \leq \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i(x_0). \end{aligned}$$

Thus far we have proved that any nontrivial linear combination

$$f = \sum_{i=1}^n b_i \pi_i : G(D) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

attains its maximum at an unique point $x_0 \in G(D)$ and that this point belongs to S^{n-1} . Now we claim that any nontrivial linear combination

$$h := \sum_{i=1}^n b_i (\pi_i \circ G) : D \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

attains its maximum only at the point $F^{-1}(x_0) \in S^{n-1}$. In fact, note that h attains a maximum at a point $z \in D$ if and only if f attains a maximum at $G(z)$. So, the only point of maximum of h is $G(F^{-1}(x_0)) = x_0$. Since $S^{n-1} \subset G(D)$ and the functions π_i , $i = 1, \dots, n$, are linearly independent on S^{n-1} , it follows that the functions $\pi_i \circ G$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, are linearly independent on D . The linear subspace spanned by the functions $\pi_i \circ G$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, completes the proof. \square

Let us see that Theorem 2.1 recovers the 2-lineability of $\widehat{C}(\mathbb{R})$. For $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^2$, by (a, b) we mean the open line segment in \mathbb{R}^2 from a to b . Take $Y = [0, +\infty) \subset \mathbb{R}$, a continuous bijection $F : [0, +\infty) \longrightarrow S^1$, a homeomorphism $g : (-\infty, 0) \longrightarrow (F(0), (0, 0)) \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} g(x) = F(0)$. Define

$$G : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2, \quad G(x) = \begin{cases} F(x), & x \geq 0, \\ g(x), & x < 0. \end{cases}$$

3. FUNCTIONS ON COMPACT SUBSETS OF EUCLIDEAN SPACES

As to the result (C) of the Introduction on $\widehat{C}[a, b]$, in this section we prove that, on the one hand, $\widehat{C}(S^{m-1}) \cup \{0\}$ contains an m -dimensional subspace of $C(S^{m-1})$; and on the other hand, for every compact subset K of \mathbb{R}^m , $\widehat{C}(K) \cup \{0\}$ does not contain an $(m + 1)$ -dimensional subspace of $C(K)$.

First we have to prove four technical lemmas which will be used in the proof of the main result of this section (Theorem 3.6).

Lemma 3.1. *Let D be a metric space such that there is a linear space V of continuous functions from D to \mathbb{R} such that*

- (1) $\dim(V) = n$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$,
- (2) *Each $0 \neq f \in V$ has an unique point of maximum.*

Let $D' \subset D$ be the set of points of maximum of the functions belonging to V . Then the linear space

$$V' := \{f|_{D'} : f \in V\}$$

also satisfies (1) and (2).

Proof. We first show that the elements of V' satisfy (2). In fact, note that each nonzero function $f|_{D'} \in V'$ has a point of maximum which is unique because $f \in V$ has an unique point of maximum. Now we just need to prove that $\dim(V') = n$. Let $\{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ be a basis of V . If $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{R}$ are such that $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i f_i|_{D'} = 0$, then $-\sum_{i=1}^n a_i f_i|_{D'} = 0$. Supposing that $g := \sum_{i=1}^n a_i f_i \neq 0$; it follows that $-g \neq 0$. Since the points of maximum of g and $-g$ belong to D' , the images of these points of maximum are 0, since $g|_{D'} = -g|_{D'} = 0$. We thus conclude that $g = 0$. Since the set $\{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ is linearly independent, we have $a_1 = \dots = a_n = 0$, and hence $\{f_1|_{D'}, \dots, f_n|_{D'}\}$ is linearly independent as well. The proof is complete because the inequality $\dim(V') \leq \dim V$ is obvious. \square

Lemma 3.2. *Keeping the terminology and the notation of Lemma 3.1 and that of its proof, consider the continuous function*

$$F: D \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad F(y) = (f_1(y), \dots, f_n(y)).$$

Let $X := F(D')$. Then

- (1) *For every $v \in S^{n-1}$, the function*

$$g_v: X \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad g_v(x) = \langle x, v \rangle,$$

has an unique point of maximum.

- (2) *For every $x \in X$ there is $v \in S^{n-1}$ such that x is the unique point of maximum of the function g_v .*
- (3) *Endowing D' with the metric induced by the metric of D and X with the Euclidean metric of \mathbb{R}^n , then $F|_{D'}: D' \longrightarrow X$ is a continuous bijection.*

Proof. (1) Given $v = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in S^{n-1}$, consider the function $g_v \circ F: D' \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$. For every $y \in D'$,

$$g_v \circ F(y) = \langle F(y), v \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i f_i|_{D'}(y) \in V'.$$

From Lemma 3.1, $g_v \circ F: D' \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has an unique maximum $d \in D'$. Therefore, $\langle F(y), v \rangle \leq \langle F(d), v \rangle$ for every $y \in D'$, and the equality holds only when $y = d$. Then, $\langle x, v \rangle \leq \langle F(d), v \rangle$ for every $x \in X$. So $F(d)$ is a point of maximum of g_v . Assume that g_v has another point of maximum x' in X . In this case, $x' = F(d')$ for some $d' \neq d$ and the function $g_v \circ F: D' \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has two points of maximum. But this contradicts what we have just proved.

(2) For each $x \in X$ there is $d \in D'$ so that $x = F(d)$. But d is the point of maximum of some nonnull function $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i f_i|_{D'}: D' \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. With no loss of generality, we may suppose $\|(a_1, \dots, a_n)\|_2 = 1$. Calling $v := (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in S^{n-1}$, we have,

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i f_i|_{D'}(y) = \langle F(y), v \rangle \leq \langle F(d), v \rangle = \langle x, v \rangle,$$

for every $y \in D'$. Then $\langle z, v \rangle \leq \langle x, v \rangle$ for every $z \in X$. From (1) it follows that x is the unique point of maximum of g_v .

(3) As each coordinate function $f_i|_{D'}$ is continuous and $X = F(D')$, we just need to prove that F is injective. If $d'_1 \neq d'_2 \in D'$ are such that $F(d'_1) = F(d'_2)$ then,

$$g_v \circ F(d'_1) = \langle v, F(d'_1) \rangle = \langle v, F(d'_2) \rangle = g_v \circ F(d'_2).$$

for every $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Therefore neither d'_1 nor d'_2 can be unique points of maximum of $g_v \circ F \in V'$, for any v . The proof is complete because this contradicts the definition of D' and Lemma 3.1. \square

Definition 3.3. Let $n \geq 2$ and let X be a subset of \mathbb{R}^n containing more than one point satisfying the following conditions:

(1) For every $v \in S^{n-1}$, the function

$$g_v: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad g_v(x) = \langle x, v \rangle,$$

has an unique point of maximum denoted by x_v .

(2) For every $x \in X$ there is $v_x \in S^{n-1}$ such that x is the unique point of maximum of the function g_{v_x} .

Define the function

$$f: S^{n-1} \rightarrow X, \quad f(v) = x_v,$$

where x_v is described in (1). From (2) it follows that f is surjective.

Lemma 3.4. Let X and f be as in Definition 3.3 and let K be a compact subset of \mathbb{R}^n so that $K \subset X$. Then $f^{-1}(K) \subset S^{n-1}$ is a compact subset of \mathbb{R}^n .

Proof. Let $(v_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ be a sequence in $f^{-1}(K)$. As $f^{-1}(K) \subset S^{n-1}$ and S^{n-1} is compact, there is a convergent subsequence $v_{n_j} \rightarrow v \in S^{n-1}$. For every j , let $x_j = f(v_{n_j}) \in K$. Since K is compact, there is a convergent subsequence $x_{j_k} \rightarrow x \in K$. Now, since x_{j_k} is the unique point of maximum of the function $g_{v_{n_{j_k}}}$ in X , we have $\langle f(v), v_{n_{j_k}} \rangle \leq \langle x_{j_k}, v_{n_{j_k}} \rangle$. Making $k \rightarrow \infty$ we get $\langle f(v), v \rangle \leq \langle x, v \rangle$. But $f(v)$ is the unique point of maximum of g_v , then $f(v) = x$ and $v \in f^{-1}(K)$. This proves that $f^{-1}(K) \subset S^{n-1}$ is closed, hence compact. \square

Lemma 3.5. The function f defined in Definition 3.3 is continuous if and only if X is compact.

Proof. Recall that in X and S^{n-1} we are considering the Euclidean metric of \mathbb{R}^n . Suppose that $f: S^{n-1} \rightarrow X$ is continuous. Since f is surjective and S^{n-1} is compact, it follows that $X = f(S^{n-1})$ is compact. Conversely, suppose that X is compact. Let B be a closed subset of X . Since X is a compact metric space, we conclude that B is also compact in \mathbb{R}^n . From Lemma 3.4 we know that $f^{-1}(B)$ is a compact subset of S^{n-1} , therefore closed. \square

Theorem 3.6. *Let $n \geq 2$ and $m \geq 1$ be positive integers. Then $m < n$ if, and only if, for every compact set $K \subset \mathbb{R}^m$, there is no n -dimensional subspace of $C(K)$ contained in $\widehat{C}(K) \cup \{0\}$.*

Proof. Assume that $m < n$ and suppose that there exist a compact $K \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ and a set $V \subset \widehat{C}(K)$ so that $V \cup \{0\}$ is an n -dimensional linear subspace of $C(K)$. The compact K shall play the role of the metric space D in the lemmas above. Let f_1, \dots, f_n be a basis of $V \cup \{0\}$ and define $F: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ as in Lemma 3.2. As before, let $D' \subset D$ be the set of points of maximum of the functions belonging to V and let $X := F(D')$. Since $\dim(V \cup \{0\}) \geq 2$, V contains non-constant functions. Letting $g \in V$ be a non-constant function; it is clear that g and $-g$ have different points of maximum, so D' has more than one point. By Lemma 3.2 (3), the map $F|_{D'}: D' \rightarrow X$ is bijective, thus X has more than one point as well. Therefore X satisfies the conditions of Definition 3.3. Consider also the function $f: S^{n-1} \rightarrow X$ from Definition 3.3. Let us prove that D' is closed in D , and therefore compact in \mathbb{R}^m . Let $(d_k)_{k=1}^\infty$ be a sequence in D' converging to d . From the compactness of D we have $d \in D$. From Definition 3.3 we know that, for each k , $F(d_k) = f(v_k)$ for some $v_k \in S^{n-1}$, which means that $F(d_k)$ is the unique point of maximum in X of the function

$$g_{v_k}: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad g_{v_k}(x) = \langle x, v_k \rangle.$$

By the compactness of S^{n-1} there is a convergent subsequence $v_{k_j} \rightarrow v \in S^{n-1}$. Note that

$$\langle F(d_{k_j}), v_{k_j} \rangle \geq \langle F(y), v_{k_j} \rangle \text{ for every } y \in D'.$$

Since these points $y \in D'$ are points of maximum of the functions $g_v \circ F: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the inequality

$$\langle F(d_{k_j}), v_{k_j} \rangle \geq \langle F(z), v_{k_j} \rangle$$

holds for every $z \in D$. Using the continuity of $F: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, we get

$$\langle F(d), v \rangle = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \langle F(d_{k_j}), v_{k_j} \rangle \geq \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \langle F(z), v_{k_j} \rangle = \langle F(z), v \rangle,$$

for every $z \in D$. So d is a point of maximum of the function $g_v \circ F: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and thus $d \in D'$. This completes the proof that D' is closed in D .

By Lemma 3.2(3) we know that the function $F: D' \rightarrow X$ is a continuous bijection from the compact D' to the Hausdorff space X , therefore it is a homeomorphism. As D' is compact, $X = F(D')$ is compact as well, and by Lemma 3.5 the function $f: S^{n-1} \rightarrow X$ is continuous. Considering \mathbb{R}^m conveniently embedded in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} (remember that $m < n$ by assumption), the function

$$F^{-1} \circ f: S^{n-1} \rightarrow D' \subset \mathbb{R}^m \subset \mathbb{R}^{n-1},$$

is continuous.

By the Borsuk-Ulam theorem (see, e.g. [2]) there is a pair of antipodal points $v, -v \in S^{n-1}$ such that $F^{-1} \circ f(v) = F^{-1} \circ f(-v)$. The injectivity of F^{-1} gives $f(v) = f(-v) =: x$. Using the definition of $f: S^{n-1} \rightarrow X$ we conclude that both $g_v: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g_{-v}: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ have x as a maximum. On the other hand, $g_{-v} = -g_v$, so $g_v: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is constant. This is a contradiction because X has more than one point and g_v attains its maximum only once in X . For the converse just make $D = S^{n-1}$ in Theorem 1.1. \square

4. AN INFINITE DIMENSIONAL EXAMPLE

Let K be a compact subset of \mathbb{R}^m . In Section 3 we saw that, for $m < n$, there is no n -dimensional subspace of $C(K)$ formed, up to the origin, by functions that attain the maximum only at one point. In this section we show that if we allow K to be a compact subset of an infinite dimensional Banach space, $\widehat{C}(K)$ may contain, up to the origin, an infinite dimensional subspace of $C(K)$.

Example 4.1. Let K be the following subset of ℓ_2 :

$$K = \left\{ \left(\frac{a_n}{n} \right)_{n=1}^{\infty} : (a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty} \in \ell_2 \text{ and } \|(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}\|_2 \leq 1 \right\}.$$

It is clear that K is a subset of the Hilbert cube $\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} [-\frac{1}{n}, \frac{1}{n}]$. Since the Hilbert cube is compact, to prove that K is compact it is enough to show that it is closed. Let $(v_j)_{j=1}^{\infty} = \left(\left(\frac{v_n^j}{n} \right)_{n=1}^{\infty} \right)_{j=1}^{\infty}$ be a sequence in K converging to $w = (w_n)_{n=1}^{\infty} \in \ell_2$. Since convergence in ℓ_2 implies coordinatewise convergence, $w_n = \lim_j \frac{v_n^j}{n}$, so $nw_n = \lim_j v_n^j$, for every fixed n . For every k ,

$$\sum_{n=1}^k n^2 |w_n|^2 = \sum_{n=1}^k \lim_j |v_n^j|^2 = \lim_j \sum_{n=1}^k |v_n^j|^2 \leq \limsup_j \|(v_n^j)_{n=1}^{\infty}\|_2^2 \leq 1.$$

This shows that $\|(nw_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}\|_2 \leq 1$, proving that $w \in K$. So K is a compact subset of ℓ_2 .

Now we proceed to show that $\widehat{C}(K) \cup \{0\}$ contains an infinite dimensional subspace of $C(K)$. Consider the function

$$F: K \rightarrow \ell_2, \quad F\left(\left(\frac{a_n}{n}\right)_{n=1}^{\infty}\right) = (a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}.$$

By $\pi_j: \ell_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we mean the projection onto the j -th coordinate, $j \in \mathbb{N}$. For each j , the function

$$\pi_j \circ F: K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

is continuous because $\pi_j \circ F = j \cdot \pi_j$. It is clear that the functions $\pi_j \circ F, j \in \mathbb{N}$, are linearly independent. Let $f := \sum_{j=1}^k b_j (\pi_j \circ F)$ be a nontrivial linear combination of these continuous functions. Writing $b = (b_1, \dots, b_k, 0, 0, \dots) \in \ell_2$ we have $f(x) = \langle b, F(x) \rangle$ for every $x \in K$. As $b \in \ell_2^k$ and $\|F(x)\|_2 \leq 1$ for every $x \in K$,

$$f(x) = \langle b, F(x) \rangle < \left\langle b, \frac{b}{\|b\|_2} \right\rangle$$

whenever $F(x) \neq \frac{b}{\|b\|_2}$. As F is a bijection onto the closed unit ball of ℓ_2 , there is a unique $y \in K$ such that $F(y) = \frac{b}{\|b\|_2}$. This shows that f attains its maximum at y .

An adaptation of the argument used in the proof of Theorem 2.1 guarantees that this maximum is unique.

APPENDIX

The result below was communicated by V. I. Gurariy during a Non-linear Analysis Seminar at Kent State University (Kent, Ohio, USA) in the Fall of 2004. The alert reader may hear the echo of Banach's proof of the fact that the set of continuous nowhere differentiable functions is dense and the set of continuous functions differentiable at least at one point is meager.

Proposition A. (V.I. Gurariy, 2004) *The set $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}[0, 1]$ is a G_δ dense subset of $\mathcal{C}[0, 1]$.*

Sketch of the proof. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let

$$U_n = \left\{ f \in \mathcal{C}[0, 1] : \text{for some } x \in [0, 1], f(x) > \max_{|t-x| \geq \frac{1}{n}} f(t) \right\}.$$

Notice that U_n is open. Indeed, if $f \in U_n$ and $g \in \mathcal{C}[0, 1]$ is “very close” to f , then

$$g(x) > \max_{|t-x| \geq \frac{1}{n}} g(t).$$

Also, if $h \in \mathcal{C}[0, 1]$ is arbitrary and $h(x_0) = \max_{t \in [0, 1]} h(t)$, then (by slightly increasing h near x_0) we shall get a function $k \in \mathcal{C}[0, 1]$ such that $h \approx k$ and $k \in U_n$. In other words, each U_n is dense in $\mathcal{C}[0, 1]$. Furthermore, $\mathcal{M} = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} U_n$. Indeed, suppose that $f \in U_n$ for each n and that $f(x_0) = f(x_1) = \max_{[0, 1]} f$ for some $0 \leq x_0 < x_1 \leq 1$. For large enough n , this means that

$$f(x_0) = \max_{[0, 1]} f > \max_{|t-x| \geq \frac{1}{n}} f(t) \geq f(x_1) = \max_{[0, 1]} f,$$

which is a contradiction. Therefore, $\bigcap_n U_n \subset \mathcal{M}$. The converse inclusion is easy.

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